

WESTERN PLANTS AT CUMBERLAND, MAINE.—In the summer of 1902 three western plants, *Solanum rostratum*, Dunal, *Rumex maritimus*, L., and *Verbena bracteosa*, Michx., made their appearance in sandy waste soil at Cumberland Center, Maine. The first has been reported several times from other parts of Maine, and has been spontaneous around buildings at Cumberland for the last two or three years. *Rumex maritimus*, L., was collected on a salt marsh at Old Orchard, Maine, a few years ago by Mr. J. C. Parlin. The present station extends the range slightly further northward and inland. The third plant, *Verbena bracteosa*, Michx., has not, to my knowledge, been reported previously from Maine. All three species were doubtless introduced from the West by impurities in grain.—EDWARD B. CHAMBERLAIN, Washington, D. C.

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LINUM CATHARTICUM ON CAPE BRETON.—In August last, while examining the excellent sketches of Cape Breton plants made by Mrs. John S. McLennan, I was much interested in the drawing of a delicate little flax-like plant with opposite leaves and white flowers. The plant was so unlike anything with which I was familiar that Mrs. McLennan kindly guided me to the spot near her home in Sydney where she had found the plant. There it abounded in damp spots in an open field, and sufficient flowering and fruiting material was secured for later identification. Comparison of the plant with European specimens shows it to be the Old World *Linum catharticum*, L., the Fairy Flax of English pastures, which has been once before reported in Nova Scotia — on waste ground at Pictou,<sup>1</sup> 120 miles in direct line and more than twice that distance around the coast from Sydney.

At Sydney the Fairy Flax is not in waste ground, but grows thoroughly wild, suggesting to the casual observer the Bluet (*Houstonia caerulea*) of our New England fields. It may, however, have been first introduced in ballast, as a small colony of ballast-weeds occurs on the wharf not far away; or it was more probably first introduced into the region in imported seed. Unlike our native species of flax, *Linum catharticum* has opposite leaves and white flowers, and by these characters it may be readily distinguished should it appear in other portions of eastern America.—M. L. FERNALD.

<sup>1</sup> Macoun, Cat. Can. Pl. i. 501.